

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data
Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance (A.D. 1870-1930)

Historic Period Themes: Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural village

Historic Function and Use: This building began to function as a Methodist church in 1892. It continues to serve the community as a house of worship on a limited service schedule today.

Known design source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☒ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic White Haven within
Methodist Episcopal Church (Whitehaven Historic District)

and/or common Whitehaven United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Church Street N/A not for publication

city, town Whitehaven vicinity of _____ congressional district 35th

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Whitehaven United Methodist Church
c/o Quantico/Rockwalkin United Methodist Charge

street & number Rt. 1 Box 78 telephone no.:

city, town Hebron state and zip code MD 21830

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Courthouse liber E.A.T.80

street & number _____ folio 164

city, town Salisbury state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Whitehaven Historic District

date 1980 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records National Register of Historic Places
Maryland Historic Trust

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. WI-156

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move <u>1909</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Whitehaven United Methodist Church is located on the west side of Church Street in the village of Whitehaven in Wicomico County, Maryland. This one-story frame structure faces east. Its gable roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1892, the exterior of the Whitehaven United Methodist Church is clad in german siding, and finished with corner boards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the foundation consists of brick piers. The roofline of each elevation of the church is decorated with scalloped edging.

The east (main) elevation has a bell tower as its southern bay. The square bell tower is finished with corner boards and lit on the first floor by a one-over-one sash window. This window is a smaller and square version of the others which light the church -- around the central clear square of the window glass are smaller squares of colored glass. The steeple's upper section towered above the church until the 1950s when it was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel. A shorter version of the belfry was constructed as a replacement, and is now topped by a decorative finial. The central bay of this elevation consists of a set of one-over-one panel double doors with a colored three-light transom. This doorway is sheltered by a shed roof porch supported by two square posts, and decorated with scalloped edging. The northern bay consists of a square, one story, shed roof projection from the main body of the church. It is lit by one one-over-one sash window like that which lights the bell tower.

The north elevation is lit by three one-over-one sash windows with wide surrounds and decorative crown moldings. These windows have a central frosted pane surrounded by small, rectangular colored panes of glass. Each window is a memorial to a former church member. These windows replaced clear, four-over-four sash windows in the late 1920s. A brick chimney pierces the roof of this elevation.

In the center of the west elevation is a gable roof projection of the chancel. This projection is lit on both its southern and northern sides by one one-over-one sash window. The central, clear glass panes of these windows are surrounded by squares of colored glass.

The south elevation is lit by three one-over-one sash windows like those on the north elevation. A brick chimney pierces the roof.

7.1 Description

Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD

The interior of the church has changed little over the years. The pews, chancel rail, and chancel furniture are all in place. The double entrance doors are decorated with faux graining identical to that used on some of the doors of the White Haven Hotel. As noted in the recent history of the Whitehaven church, the church interior can be read as an archive of the village because of the many inscriptions which accompany its donated memorials. These memorials include the art glass windows, the bible, chancel cross, picture of Christ, and organ, all of which were donated through the years in memory of members of the congregation.

The most remarkable aspect of the church interior is the panelling which sheathes its walls and ceiling. This panelling consists of diagonally placed strips of heart pine which creates a herring bone pattern against the west chancel wall and a coved ceiling effect. The variegated hues of the pine planks create a rich, warm interior. Although the craftsman of this interior is unknown, the church is said to reflect the work of local shipbuilders who have long made their home in Whitehaven.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-156

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Whitehaven United Methodist Church has significance as a local religious landmark because of its one hundred year service to the Whitehaven community as a house of worship. Although a Baptist Church stood in the village of White Haven around 1877, only evidence of the Methodist presence has survived. Architecturally, the Whitehaven Methodist Church has significance because of its interior woodwork which is unique among the churches of Wicomico County. This interior of pine paneling was constructed by an anonymous craftsman, whose facility with wood suggests his familiarity with boat building techniques. Within the state context, the church has significance as a contributing resource to the self-contained and well preserved 19th century village of Whitehaven. Here, the church stands as an unusual expression of the community's maritime and boat building heritage.

Before the Whitehaven Methodist Church was built, village residents could attend a Methodist church located at the corner of Clara and Capitola roads, about three miles outside of what is currently considered the Whitehaven village center. By 1891 prominent Methodist members of the village community, including Granville Catlin, George Henry Robertson, Stephen W. Dolby, Daniel J. Elliott, and Samuel Bounds, joined together as trustees of what would become the Whitehaven Methodist Episcopal Church. In that year they received a quarter acre lot, located on the main road at the edge of town, from Elizabeth A. G. Catlin for the erection of the church.¹ The church building was constructed in 1892 from wood donated by George H. Robertson who owned a lumber mill nearby, and by 1894 the total congregation numbered thirty-six.

In 1909 the church was moved to a location 600 feet closer to the river at a cost of 600 dollars. This move was achieved by placing the structure on large rollers pulled by mules. It's unclear why this move was undertaken, although there seems to be some connection between the construction of the schoolhouse addition in 1909 and the removal of the church which had been located nearby. The church was moved to

¹ Wicomico County Land Records, Liber F.M.S. 7, folio 285.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-156

Wicomico County Land Records.

Scott, David & Doris. The United Methodist Church at Whitehaven 1892-1992: An Affectionate History. (Whitehaven: Whitehaven Methodist Church Centennial Committee, 1992).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .384 or less of an acreQuadrangle name WetipquinQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification See attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Architectural Historianorganization Whitehaven Heritage Association, Inc. date January 1993street & number P.O.Box 4488 telephone 410-742-5379city or town Whitehaven state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-534-7600

8.1 Significance

Whitehaven United Methodist Church
Wicomico County, WI-156

a lot then owned by Elizabeth A.G. Catlin.²

By 1920 the church congregation had grown to 107 members who chose to separate themselves from the Nanticoke Circuit. The church then remained independent for more than a decade. During this time members of the congregation donated art glass windows to the church as memorials to deceased family members. These windows replaced the plain shuttered four-over-four sash windows which first lit the church. This tradition of donating memorials to the church continued through the 1960s. The bible, the chancel cross, the picture of Christ, and the electric organ all bear inscriptions in memory of former church members. Here, Whitehaven's past is palpably present.

During the Depression of the 1930s, the population of Whitehaven began to shrink, and the church membership along with it. In 1932 the church returned to the Nanticoke Circuit and in 1937 acquired the then inactive schoolhouse as a Sunday School room and church hall. In 1948 the church was reassigned to the Quantico circuit. By this time the congregation had dropped to seventeen members who struggled to keep the church open. In 1955 Hurricane Hazel destroyed the steeple of the church. The bell was saved, and later returned to its place in a shorter version of the former bell tower. Finally, in 1975, the church changed its status to operations on a limited service schedule. Since that time the Whitehaven Church has been maintained by a local committee and has hosted one service annually -- a homecoming service held the third Sunday of October.

In 1991 the Whitehaven Church Centennial Committee was formed to celebrate the Church's 100 year anniversary with activities, services, and publications which included both the church and the schoolhouse. A comprehensive history of the church was published at this time by Doris and David Scott entitled The United Methodist Church at Whitehaven 1892-1992: An Affectionate History. A concern for the preservation and maintenance of the church is shared by all village residents, regardless of creed. Once again, the church is serving Whitehaven as the centerpoint of community action and cooperation.

² See section "10.1 Geographical Data" of this form for more information regarding this property.

10.1 Geographical Data

Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156 Wicomico County, MD

In 1891 church trustees were granted a .25 acre property by Elizabeth A.G. Catlin "situate on the west side of and binding on the public road leading from White Haven and bounded on the north by the land of Elizabeth A.G. Catlin and on the south by the land of said Catlin and on the east by the county road" (Wic. Land Records, Liber F.M.S. 2, folio 285) on which the church building was originally constructed. The church was removed from this site to a new location around 1909, about the same time that the Whitehaven Schoolhouse addition was constructed. This new site was also located on a piece of property belonging to Elizabeth A.G. Catlin, who devised it to her daughter Laura Toadvine as item four of Catlin's will of 1908 (Wic. Testamentary Records, Liber L.J.G. 1, folio 358). Catlin's will was probated in 1911, at which time this property was described as "situate opposite Daniel J. Elliott's house and known as lot No. 2."

In 1912 Laura F. Toadvine and Greensburg A. Toadvine, her husband, conveyed this property to William H. Dolbey and Charles W. Rayner as tenants in common (Wic. Land Records, Liber E.A.T. 80, folio 164). At this time the property description was as follows, "situate on the west side of and binding upon one of the principal streets of said village which runs in a northerly direction from the main street along the Wicomico River front to the main county road leading into the said village of White Haven and situate on the south side of and binding upon a 16 foot street leading in an easterly direction from the lands of William J. Catlin and Granville M. Catlin out to the said street leading from the river front to the said county road, said 16 foot street separating the land hereby conveyed from land of one Ella L. Nelson and beginning for the outline of the lot hereby conveyed at the intersection of the south side of said 16 foot street with the aforesaid and thence by and with said last mentioned street south 8 degrees east a distance of 87 feet to a stake at the northeast corner of land belonging to William J. Catlin, thence in a westerly direction with the said land belonging to said William J. Catlin and with land belonging to said William J. Catlin and Granville M. Catlin a distance of 198 feet to a stake on the east line of land belonging to said William J. Catlin and Granville M. Catlin thence by and with said last mentioned Catlin land in a northerly direction a distance of 82.5 feet to a stake on the south side of said 16 foot street a distance of 197.2 feet to a stake at the point or place of beginning and containing .384 of an acre of land more or less." Although both Dolbey and Rayner were trustees of the church they do not appear in the deed as "church trustees."

The Wicomico County Land Records do not show that this property was ever conveyed to the Whitehaven United Methodist Church. There is no estate on record for William H. Dolbey meaning that he died possessed of no real property. The Wicomico County Testamentary Records show that Rayner died in 1943 possessed of a tract of land "being a part of the same land that was conveyed unto William W. Dolby and Charles W. Rayner as tenants in common, by Laura F. Toadvine by deed April 25,

10.2 Geographical Data

Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD

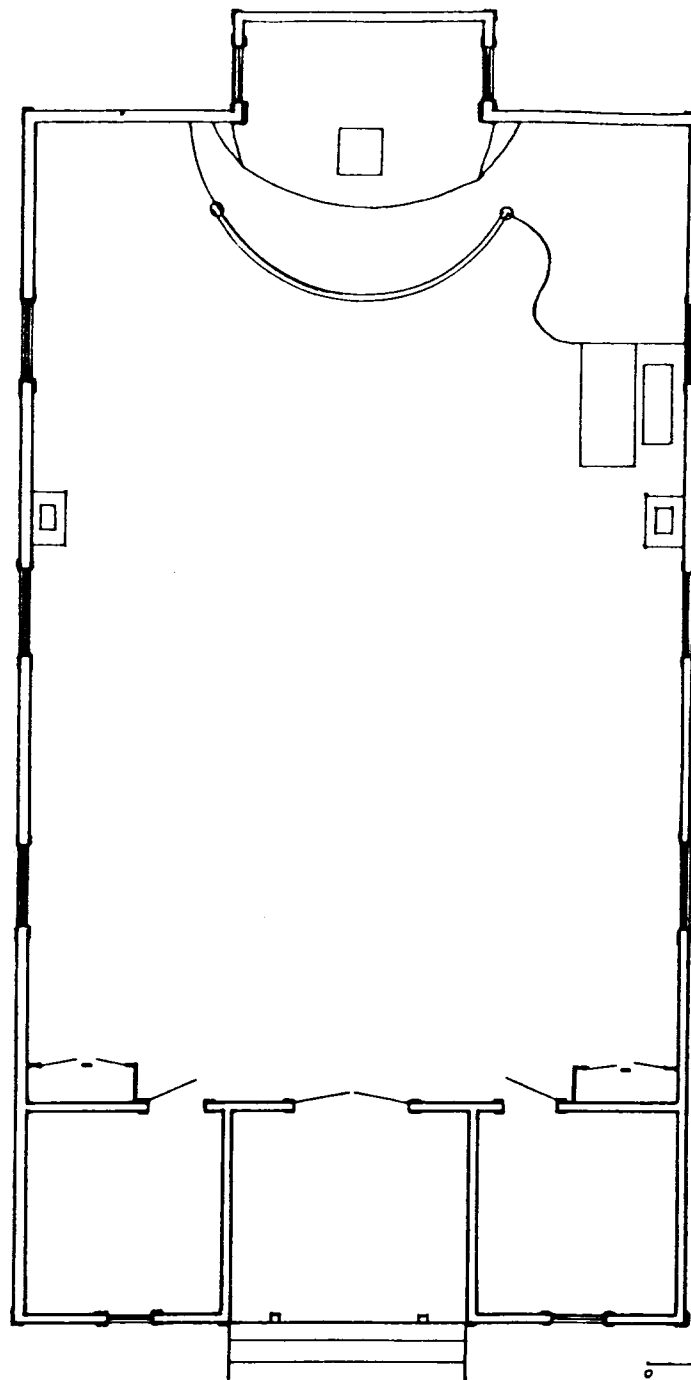
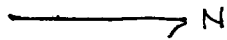
1912.”¹ Following a review of the land records, it's apparent that Rayner's heirs have not exercised rights of ownership, and as a result thereof the church has title to said land by virtue of the doctrine of adverse possession.² Consequently, the verbal boundary description of the property on which the church now stands is that described in Wicomico County Land Record Liber E.A.T. 80, folio 64 noted above, minus that portion conveyed to Annie E. Causey by Dolbey and Rayner in Wicomico County Land Record Liber E.A.T. 80, folio 179, and the “easterly twenty feet of the land” conveyed away in Wicomico County Land Record Liber 144, folio 131.

¹ Wicomico County Estate No. 5461.

² According to the doctrine of adverse possession, a stranger to an owner of land who occupies that land openly and notoriously for a period of 20 years becomes the owner of that land at the end of the 20 year period.

First Floor Plan
Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD

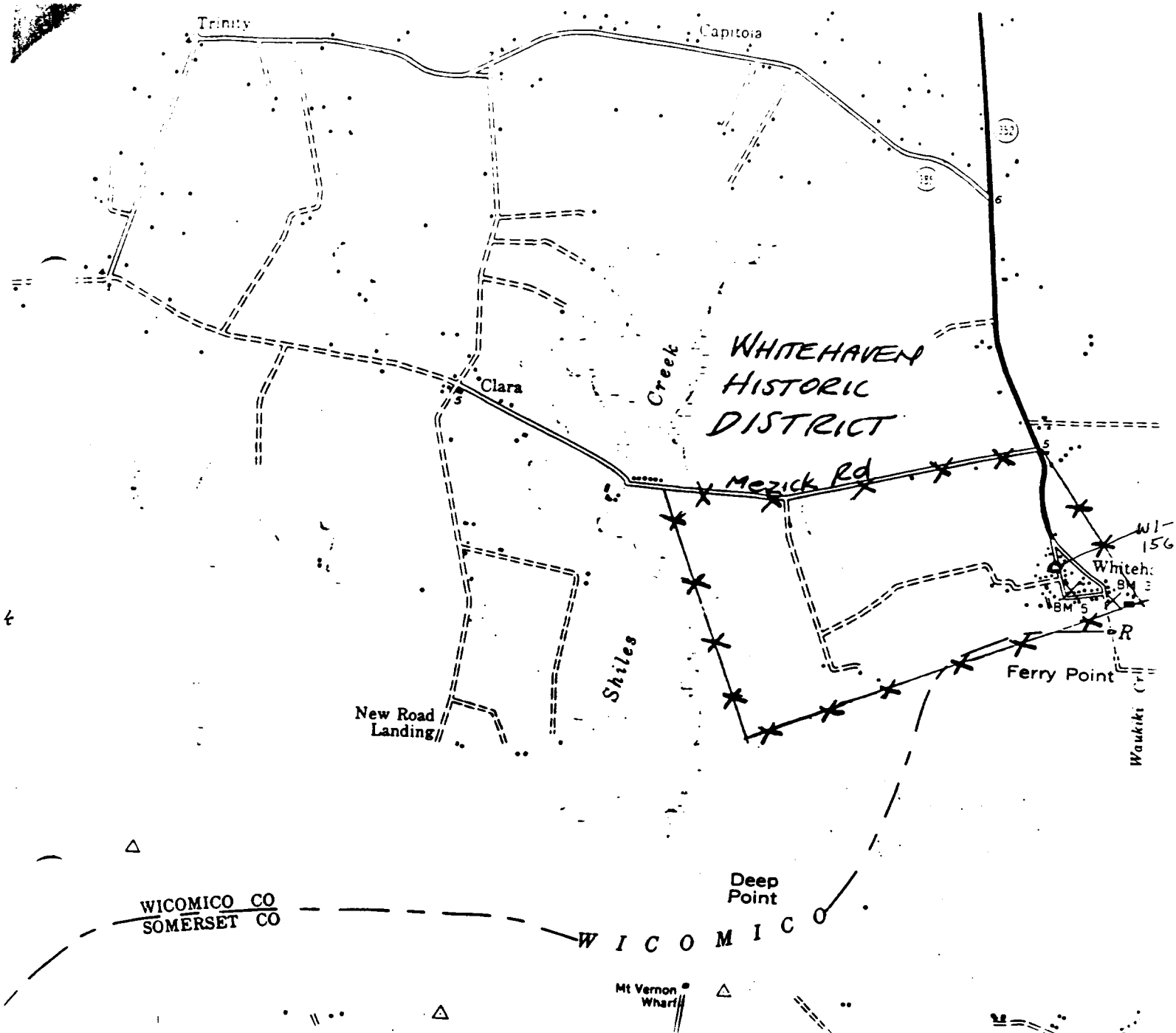
Drawn in 1991.
Draftsperson: David Scott.
Scale 1'=1/8".



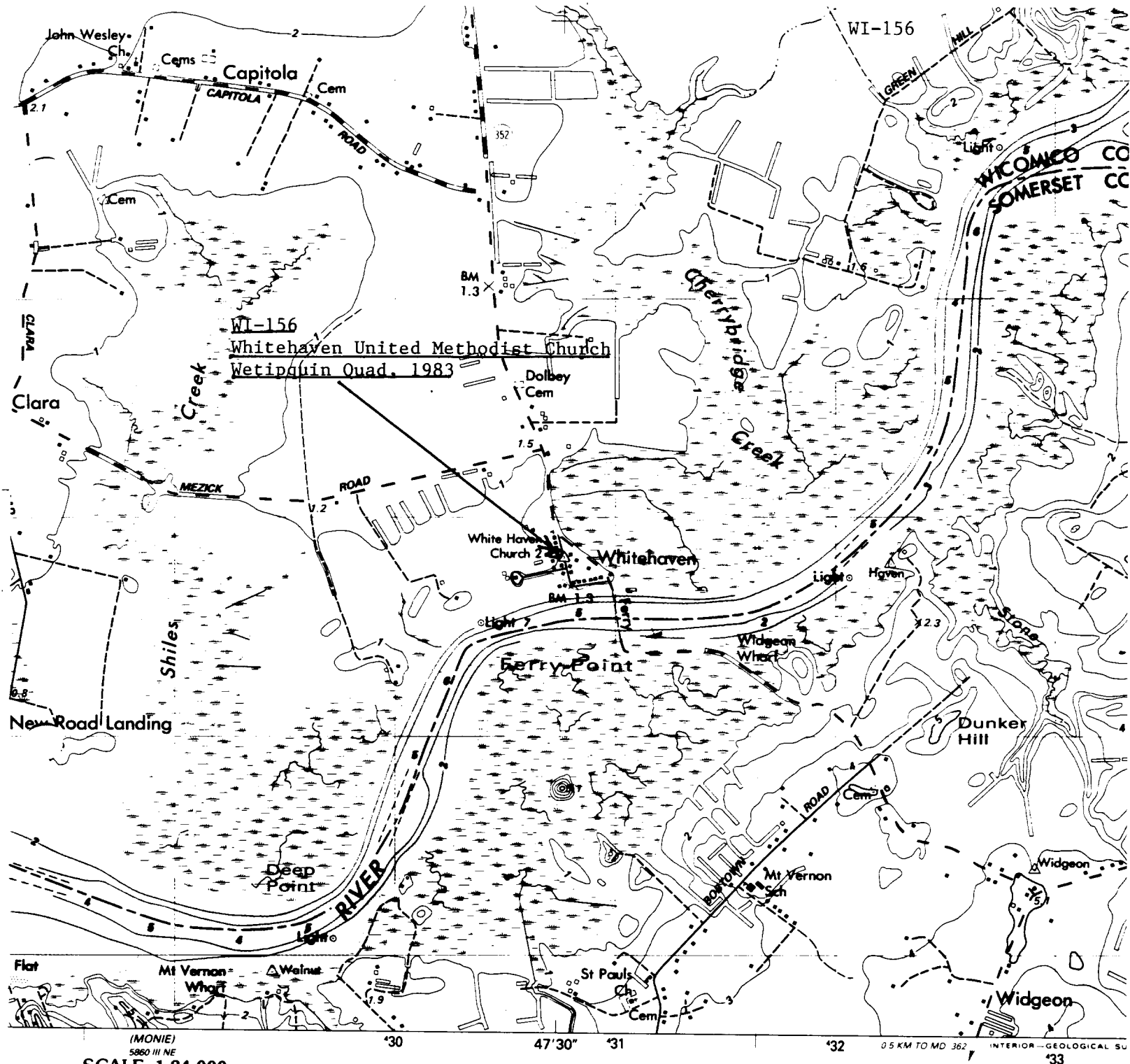
Plan of the United Methodist Church,
Whitehaven, Maryland

Locational Map
Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD

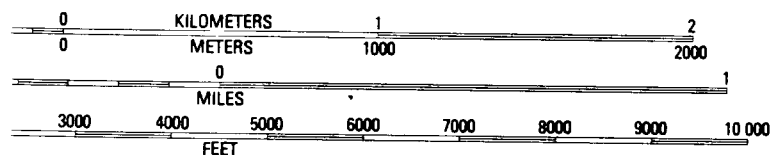
1942 USGS Map, Wetipquin Quadrangle. Scale 1:24,000



Locational Map
Whitehaven United Methodist Church, WI-156
Wicomico County, MD
Source: Wicomico County Tax Office

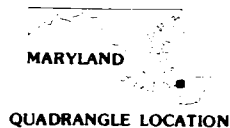


SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER
 TIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 ID OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
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OM WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
 CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS
 IN METERS

ROAD CLAS
 Primary highway,
 hard surface
 Secondary highway,
 hard surface
 Trails
 Interstate Route



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2nd FARMER HIGHWAY 2nd FARMER

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Bay Area

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